

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated November 3, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-35 are rejected to by the Examiner. Claims 1, 4-6, 10, 34 have been amended, and claim 7 has been canceled. Claims 1-6 and 8-35 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,777,275 to Mizutani (hereinafter "Mizutani").

The rejection of claims 1-35 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-35 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "an L-shaped body." Mizutani does not teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. The structure of the body in Mizutani is clearly not L-shaped. The L-shaped body more effectively absorbs forces transmitted through the body than that of the flat body shown in Mizutani. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-35 are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

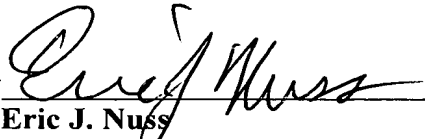
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: **31 January 2007**

By


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